

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Han Htun and Gordon L. Hager

Serial No.: Not yet known Examiner: B. Sisson, Ph.D.

Filed: Herewith Group Art Unit: 1655

For: METHODS AND COMPOSITIONS FOR MONITORING DNA BINDING MOLECULES IN LIVING CELLS

35 N. Arroyo Pkwy.
Suite 60
Pasadena, California 91103
November 15, 2001

Honorable Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

SIR:

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT SUBMITTED IN CONNECTION WITH THE
ACCOMPANYING DIVISIONAL APPLICATION
FILED UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.53b**

Please amend the subject application as follows:

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-15 and 19-58 without prejudice to pursue the subject matter of these claims in a continuation application to be filed in the future.

Please amend claim 16 as follows:

--16. A method of screening for a ligand that activates the translocation of a steroid receptor to the nucleus in a mammalian cell comprising:

- a. contacting a mammalian cell with the ligand, wherein the cell has a plurality of steroid receptor response elements in an array such that the response element can be directly detected when bound by fluorescently labeled steroid receptor; and
- b. directly detecting the location of fluorescence within the cell, a change in the relative fluorescence of the nucleus to the cytoplasm such as to increase the fluorescence of the nucleus indicating a ligand that activates the translocation of a steroid receptor to the nucleus in a mammalian cell.--

REMARKS

The subject application is a divisional of U.S. Serial No. 09/091,042, filed February 12, 1999. An Office Action dated June 6, 2001 was issued in connection with U.S. Serial No. 09/091,042 by the United States Patent and Trademark Office. Applicants are concurrently filing herewith a Petition for a Three Month Extension of Time in connection with U.S. Serial No. 09/091,042. The extension of time maintains the pendency of the subject application until December 6, 2001. Accordingly, the parent application is concurrently pending herewith.

Claims 1-15 and 19-58 have been canceled hereinabove. Claims 16-18 are pending. Claim 16 has been amended. Support for amended claim 16 may be found in originally filed claims 1, 5, and 16.

If a telephone interview would be of assistance in advancing prosecution of the subject application, applicants' undersigned attorney invites the Examiner to telephone her at the number provided.

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No fee, other than the filing fee, is deemed necessary in connection with the filing of this response. If any additional fee is necessary, the Patent Office is authorized to charge any additional fee to Deposit Account No. 50-0306.

Respectfully submitted,

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